

8 December 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT: Burroughs Corporation Briefing on Optical Disk
Memory Product Development, 3 December 1982**

1. On 3 December, a briefing addressing the status of Burroughs optical disk memory product development was given by Mr. Solomon Ebrahim, manager of Market Analysis and Planning Optical Memory Engineering, Burroughs Corporation, Westlake, California. Mr. Ebrahim was accompanied by Philip A. Schlingens, Burroughs Federal Service Support Group. The briefing was held in the Headquarters building from 1000-1130.
2. The sixteen people who attended the briefing represented a cross section of the Agency. Included were representatives from ODP, OTS, ISSG, OSO, NPIC, ORD, OGI, and OD&E. Several attendees made arrangements for further discussions with the vendor after the briefing. The following paragraphs summarize the briefing highlights.
3. Burroughs involvement in optical disk memory technology began in 1976 and has since developed into a major corporate commitment as represented by the establishment of the Optical Disk Engineering Laboratory. Research and development activities have progressed to the point where the current product schedule calls for an engineering model to be operational by December 1982 followed by installations at test sites in 1983. Production is scheduled for 1984.
4. The current product line includes three models: a read-write machine (Model 700), a read-only version (Model 800), and a "juke box" library version (Model 900) capable of handling up to 100 optical disks. These devices use gas laser technology and advertise mean-time-between-failure figures of 4,000, 5,000 and 10,000 hours respectively. The optical disk itself records data on one side and has a capacity of 20,000 megabytes (MB) of user data. Current models have data transfer rates of 1.5MB but Burroughs feels this figure can be increased to 3MB. Average seek time is in the 116 millisecond (ms) range. The disk has a predicted life of 10 years and will sell for between \$200 and \$500.
5. These devices are not TEMPEST approved but Burroughs expressed interest in pursuing this topic if there was enough interest (several times during the briefing, Burroughs expressed willingness to work with customers to tailor device capabilities

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to specific requirements). An "encryption" capability was described which involves calibrating the device to user unique specifications. This would, according to Mr. Ebrahim, prevent unauthorized access. Also, Mr. Ebrahim indicated that Burroughs was doing work with data compression algorithms which have achieved compression ratios of 10:1. The devices are being manufactured to interface with a number of host CPU manufacturers including Burroughs, IBM, Network Systems Corp., CDC, and possibly DEC.

6. Several representatives from NPIC indicated that they had visited the Westlake plant and had been favorably impressed. They are looking more closely at this technology for the 1985 time frame. Mr. Ebrahim said that Burroughs had recently proposed this technology in response to an NSA RFP [redacted] is his NSA contact).

7. In summary, the briefing was instructive and productive for all. Agency components with potentially major interest in this subject were represented with the exception of OCR and the DDO. The technology looks promising but additional experience is needed to determine its applicability, at least in this form, to a production environment.

[redacted]
Policy and Plans Group,
Management Staff, ODP

ODP/MS [redacted] 8Dec82)(optic)(v-3 disk)

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ODP-82-1725
1 December 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

FROM:

[REDACTED]
Chief, Policy and Plans Group, MS/ODP

SUBJECT: Briefing on the Burroughs Corporation
Optical Disk Memory Product

1. You are invited to attend a briefing by a representative from the Burroughs Corporation Optical Disk Engineering Laboratory, West Lake, California on their optical disk memory product development. Burroughs is in the latter stages of optical disk product research and development. Prototype models are installed at a pilot facility for test and evaluation and a pilot manufacturing facility is operational.

2. The briefer is Mr. Solomon Ebrahim, the manager of market analysis and planning for the Burroughs optical memory program. Mr. Ebrahim will discuss the key issues in optical storage technology and the potential benefits users can expect from the use of optical disk systems. He will identify and discuss specific applications and available data encryption methods. His briefing will address data storage systems, document image storage and retrieval processing, and other applications currently being considered by users as candidates for implementation using optical disk technology.

3. The briefing will be held on 3 December 1982, 1000 - 1200, in Room 3E62 Headquarters.

4. The briefing content is at the UNCLASSIFIED level. If you are interested in attending this briefing, please advise this office as soon as possible by calling [REDACTED] of my staff on [REDACTED]

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